

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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PASS ASSISTANT SECRATRY ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 55852 ACTION JIDDA MAR 15

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC, EAID, AFSP, SA, US

SUBJECT: U.S. JOINT COMMISSION OFFICE IN RIYADH

REF: A. JIDDA 1147, B. JIDDA 1312, C. STATE 53909

1. IMPORTANCE OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION TO
FUNDAMENTAL U.S. OBJECTIVES RESPECTING SAUDI ARABIA MAKES
IT URGENT THAT WE AGREE UPON PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING
AND FUNCTIONING OF RIYADH OFFICE. WE LOOK UPON
COMMISSION ACTIVITY AS COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR INVOLVING
BEST RESOURCES OF ALL RELEVANT WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND
THE EMBASSY. THIS MESSAGE REPRESENTS AGREED STATE AND
TREASURY VIEWS ON VARIOUS MATTERS RELATED TO RIYADH
OFFICE. WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR FURTHER COMMENTS ON THESE
MATTERS.

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2. AS LANGUAGE OF COMMISSION MEETING COMMUNIQUE INDICATES,

IT WAS AGREED TO CALL THIS OFFICE THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATION TO THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION OFFICE IN RIYADH. AS PRESENTLY FORESEEN, THIS OFFICE IS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS UNDER THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT (TCA). MANAGEMENT OF THE TCA OPERATION IN WASHINGTON IS TO BE IN THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE, ENERGY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES. PLEASE ADVISE SAG OF THIS DESIGNATION PER PARAGRAPH TWO OF TCA.

3. THE RIYADH OFFICE WILL OPERATE IN CONFORMITY WITH SECTION 12 OF P.L. 93-475. THE RIYADH OFFICE WILL NOT PROPOSE TO SAG ANY NEW TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS OR CHANGE OF POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT SCALE IN AN EXISTING PROJECT WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR. AS REGARDS SUCH PROJECT PROPOSALS OR PROPOSED CHANGES ORIGINATING WITH THE SAG, THE U.S. REPRESENTATION IN RIYADH SHALL INFORMALLY TRANSMIT SAUDI THOUGHTS TO WASHINGTON SO AS TO FACILITATE STUDY OF THEIR FEASIBILITY. PROPOSALS WOULD NOT BE FORMALLY TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON FOR ACTION PRIOR TO CONSULTATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, WHOSE VIEWS AND COMMENTS ON SUCH PROPOSALS WILL NATURALLY BE GIVEN EVERY CONSIDERATION IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN WASHINGTON. IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD THAT AMBASSADOR MAY AT ANY TIME MAKE KNOWN TO DIRECTOR OF RIYADH OFFICE HIS VIEWS ON ANY OTHER SUBJECT GERMANE TO ACTIVITIES OF THAT OFFICE. AT SAME TIME, DIRECTOR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF ACTIVITIES PROPERLY FALLING WITHIN SCOPE OF HIS OFFICE.

4. WITH RESPECT TO COMMUNICATIONS, EMBASSY JIDDA WILL BE AN ADDRESSEE ON ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND U.S. REPRESENTATION RIYADH. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN RIYADH OFFICE AND WASHINGTON WILL BE ADDRESSED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO STATE AND TREASURY DEPARTMENTS.

5. AS FAR AS THE RIYADH OFFICE DIRECTOR IS CONCERNED, WE HAVE LOOKED INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS RECEIVING DIPLOMATIC TITLE. WHILE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DO SO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(ONE CONSIDERATION BEING NUMBER OF PERSONS SUPERVISED), WE QUESTION WHETHER THIS IS NECESSARY IN VIEW OF CLARIFICATION OF DIRECTOR'S RELATION TO EMBASSY AS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 ABOVE. WE DO NOT WISH TO RELY ON SUBTERFUGE OF LISTING DIRECTOR'S ASSIGNED POST AS JIDDA. WE ALSO WONDER WHETHER SAG WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT USE OF DIPLOMATIC TITLE FOR AN OFFICE IN RIYADH. FINALLY, SINCE TCA PROVIDES THAT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO

JOINT COMMISSION OFFICE WILL BE ACCORDED SAME PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AS ARE PERSONNEL OF THE EMBASSY OF COMPARABLE RANK AND CATEGORY (ARTICLE 7), WE DO NOT BELIEVE ASSIGNMENT OF DIPLOMATIC TITLE WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO DIRECTOR'S EFFECTIVENESS.

6. AS REGARDS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, IT IS NOT YET CLEAR DEGREE TO WHICH RIYADH OFFICE WILL RELY ON EMBASSY FOR SUCH SUPPORT. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO MINIMIZE DEMANDS ON LIMITED ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES OF EMBASSY, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS SUCH AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, CUSTOMS

CLEARANCE, AND ACCOMMODATION EXCHANGE. SPECIAL TEAM FROM TREASURY WILL BE SENT TO SAUDI ARABIA AS SOON AS FEASIBLE (REFTEL C) AND WILL COME PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH EMBASSY ALL RELEVANT ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS.

7. ON QUESTION OF TRUST FUND ARRANGEMENTS, TREASURY DEPARTMENT HAS DISCUSSED WITH FEDERAL RESERVE SIMPLE AND DIRECT MANNER BY WHICH SAG COULD TRANSFER FUNDS DIRECTLY THROUGH SAMA ACCOUNT AT FEDERAL RESERVE OF NEW YORK. FED WOULD NOTIFY TREASURY ELECTRICALLY OF DEPOSIT, WHEREUPON TRUST FUND WOULD BE CREDITED. THIS SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE PROPOSED TO SAUDIS IN NEAR FUTUREM INGERSOLL UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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